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USSR MEETING ON PROBLEMS OF NITROGEN METABOLISM

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Prominent scientists from Moscow, Leningrad, Baku, Yerevan, and other cities of the country participated in the conference dealing with problems of nitrogen metabolism and the nerve regulation of metabolism held at Yerevan. This conference was called by the Medicobiological Department of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, and the Biological Department of the Academy of Sciences Armenian SSR.

The participants in the conference heard a report given by A. Ye. Braunshteyn, Active Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR. Braunshteyn outlined in detail the principal ways of assimilation and disassimilation of nitrogen in the organism. In doing so, he cited data obtained in his own research which favor the assumption that the liver is capable of synthesizing urea not only from different amino acids, but also from ammonium salts.

Braunshteyn also reported interesting experimental observations which have a bearing on the fate of inorganic nitrogen and of its compounds in metabolic processes taking place in the organisms.

A paper by Prof E. A. Asratyan, Active Member of the Academy of Sciences Armenian SSR, was devoted to some characteristics of the metabolism in dogs lacking a cerebral cortex. Asratyan showed on actual examples that in dogs whose cerebrum has been removed, the increase of gas metabolism on administration of adrenalin or insulin is several times greater than the corresponding increase in normal animals. Subsequently, the level of gas metabolism returns to normal. Asratyan came to the conclusion that the cerebral cortex is capable of regulating the metabolism not only by means of conditioned reflex activity, but also as an organ of the higher unconditioned reflex and trophic regulation of the multiple functions involved in the complex activities of the organism.

Prof. G. Kh. Bunatyan, Active Member Academy of Sciences USSR, presented a paper entitled "The Effect of Cortical Excitation and Inhibition on Metabolism."

T. S. Paskhina, Senior Scientific Associate, discussed the role of serum proteins and of the proteins of tissues in the development of edemas and of leukocyte infiltration in cases of serous inflammation.

S. Ye. Severin, Corresponding Member Academy of Sciences USSR, dealt in his report with the role played by the liver and by the muscles in the formation of a number of nitrogen compounds which exert a very significant effect on the functioning of skeletal muscles.

Prof G. V. Kamalyan (Yerevan) presented new data on the biochemical and physiological functions of colamine. It has been found that colamine stimulates the peristalsis of the gastrointestinal tract and also contributes to a stimulation of the excretion of gastric juice by the stomach glands of dogs. Being a metabolite, colamine is of great importance for the organism. For that reason, it is necessary to subject it to more extensive study.

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Prof S. R. Mardashev, Corresponding Member of Medical Sciences USSR, presented a report on the physiological role played by individual nitrogen compounds in the activity of the organism.

A report given by Kh. S. Koshtoyants, Corresponding Member Academy of Sciences USSR, was heard with great interest. This report dealt with the biochemical basis of the suppressive and restorative effects exerted by the vagus. A paper entitled "Biophysical Investigations Dealing with the Dynamics of Structures of Nerve and Muscle Fibers" was presented by G. M. Frank, Corresponding Member, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR.

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